

JOINT STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

for the 'Call to Action on Integrated Fire Management and Wildfire Resilience'

Wildfires pose a major risk to global climate action. Particularly in the tropics, they accelerate forest loss (1), endanger the integrity of ecosystems, including wetlands, grasslands and forests, and devastate lives and livelihoods, especially for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

This threatens to create a vicious cycle: wildfires accelerate the pace of climate change, which in turn drives longer, hotter and more destructive fire seasons.

Despite increasing risks, responses remain largely reactive and disconnected from local realities, centered on emergency suppression that overlooks the value of place-based land management tools and approaches and the key role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Sustainable fire management and wildfire resilience in the tropics must become a central pillar of global climate action.

A holistic approach is urgently needed, that recognizes the full fire management cycle as recognised through the 5Rs in Integrated Fire Management (IFM)(2): review and analysis, risk reduction (including sustainable use of fire), readiness, response, and recovery. Such an approach must place Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities at the center of decision-making, combine traditional knowledge with scientific and technological innovations, embed fire resilience in policy and financing, and acknowledge the cultural, ecological, and livelihood roles of fire across critical biomes in the tropics, distinguishing between sustainable and unsustainable use of fire.

On November 6th, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva presented the [*Call to Action on Integrated Fire Management and Wildfire Resilience at the COP30 Leaders Summit*](#) in Belém, inviting adoption by member states.

We, the undersigned non-state actors including civil society, representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and other actors in tropical forests, welcome and support the 'Call to Action on Integrated Fire Management and Resilience to Wildfire' as an important step forward. The Call recognises the need for urgent, coordinated steps to prevent catastrophic forest wildfires and strengthen fire-resilient landscapes.

Priority areas for joint action in the tropics

This Call to Action is an important step forward and we as non-state actors welcome concrete steps from Member States to address the critical issue of wildfires. The context and impacts of wildfires in the tropics require a specific approach.



Local leadership: Recognise, support and empower Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' rights, roles and knowledge in sustainable fire management and landscape governance, and avoid criminalisation of the beneficial use of fire and strengthening law enforcement of unsustainable fire management practices.

In particular, we emphasise that delivering this Call to Action in the tropics requires ambitious shared action at scale on three priority areas:



National ambition: Translate high-level ambitions into concrete policies and commitments including measurable, timebound targets, integrated across climate, biodiversity, desertification, and Disaster Risk Reduction frameworks.



Finance for delivery: Mobilise increased volumes of financing for fire planning, prevention, preparedness and recovery, including significant, direct and flexible allocations for locally-led actions (including those led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities), enabling rapid and context specific responses.

Our commitments as non-state actors

Together, we commit to support the delivery of this Call to Action by Member States, including through collaboration on three reinforcing priority areas of particular importance concerning **tropical wildfires**:

Local leadership

Advance Indigenous and community-anchored decision-making in fire management strategies at all levels, applying Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), co-management, and data sovereignty, and support and resource existing Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities platforms and networks to lead and participate in fire management and governance.

National ambition

Provide data, evidence, tools and good practices to inform the development of holistic fire management policies, targets, and monitoring, combining traditional knowledge with cutting-edge science and forest monitoring technology.

Financing

Work with governments and financial institutions (public, private and philanthropic) to design, test, and scale finance mechanisms for Integrated Fire Management, including those that provide direct, flexible funding accessible to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, both for long-term resilience and rapid response, and financing for prevention.

Signatories / Supporters:



To find out more and join us, please **contact Rosalien Jezeer and Humberto Gomez** on rosalien.jezeer@tropenbos.org and humberto.gomez@tropenbos.org

Join our event at COP30

Register



(1) World Resources Institute (2025) The latest data confirms: forest fires are getting worse, from <https://www.wri.org/insights/global-trends-forest-fires>

(2) Oliveras Menor, I. et al. (2025) 'Integrated fire management as an adaptation and mitigation strategy to altered fire regimes', *Communications Earth & Environment*, 6:202. doi: 10.1038/s43247-025-02165-9.